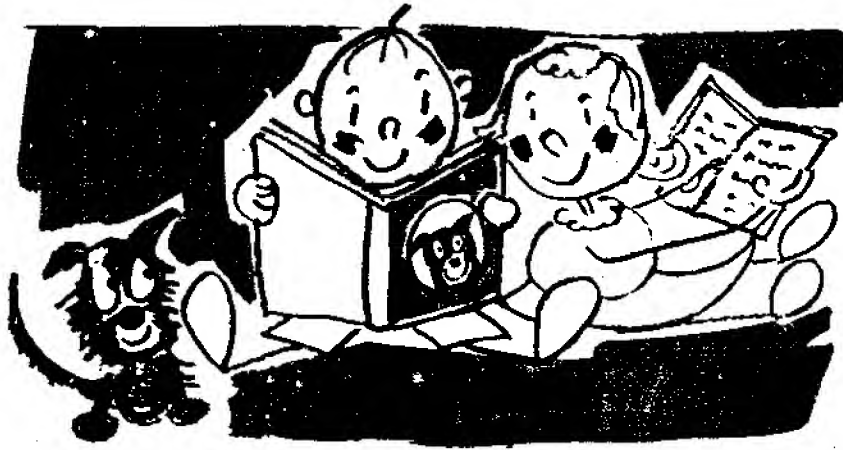


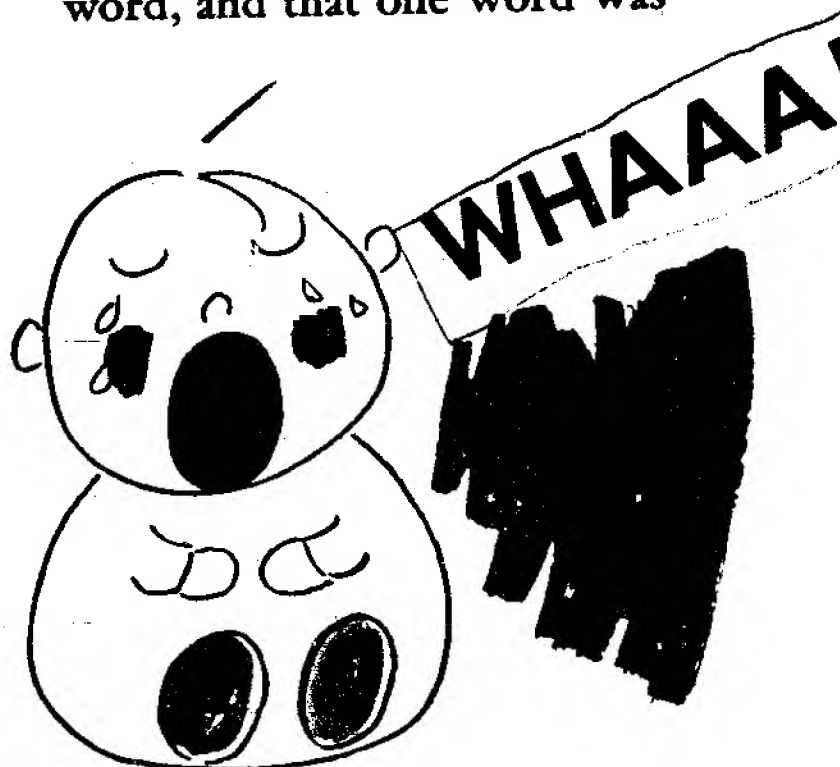
# READING CAN BE FUN

By Munro Leaf



READING CAN BE FUN —

Not so very long ago, you  
knew how to say only one  
word, and that one word was



It was a good, useful word for you  
because it could mean:

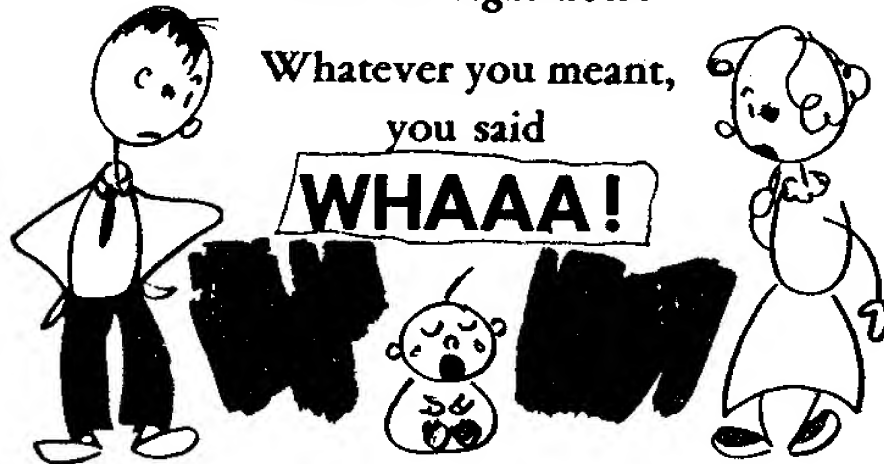
*I'm hungry or I'm thirsty*  
*I'm too hot or too cold*

*or There's a pin sticking me!*

*or maybe*

*I'm tired of sitting here all by myself.*

*I want somebody to come and play  
with me right now!*



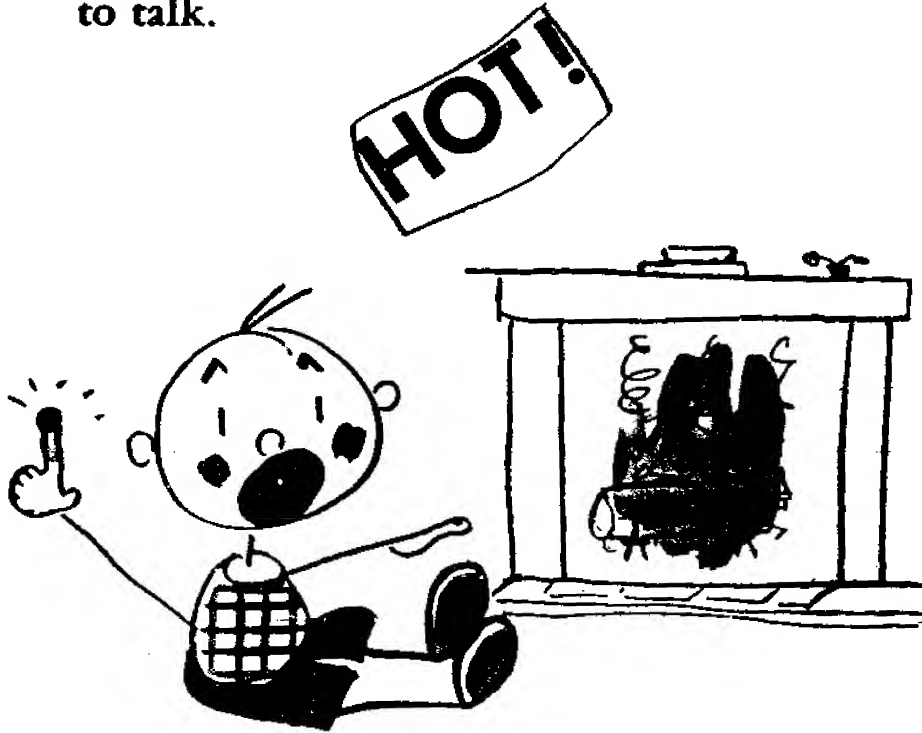
and somebody else had to guess just  
which one you did mean.



As you grew older, you found out that  
people made different kinds of noises  
with their mouths when they meant  
different things.

The noise YES meant something  
different from the noise NO all right,  
and you soon found it out.

After a while you began to know what a lot of those word noises meant that other people made. And when you began to make them yourself, you had begun to talk.

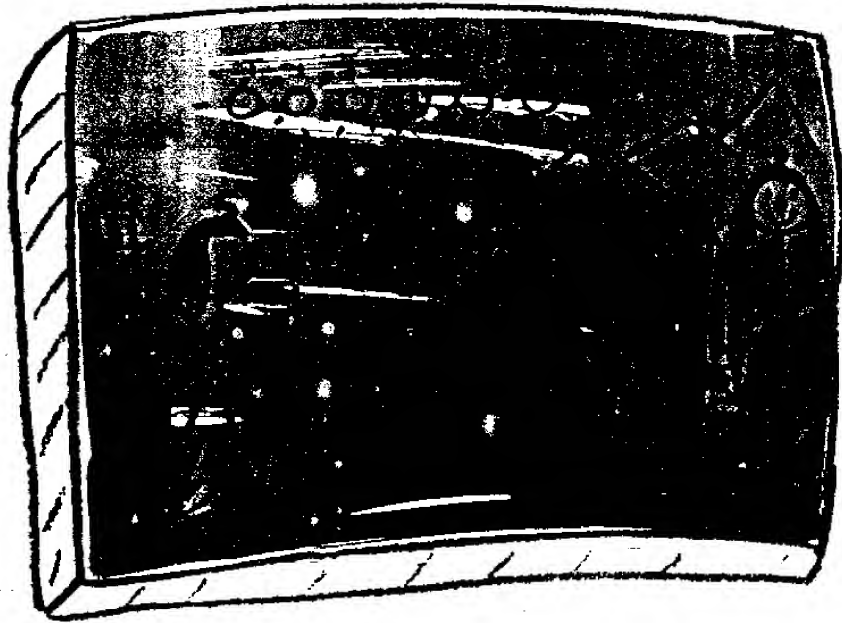


Almost everybody learns to talk before he learns to write or read. In fact, people could talk to each other way back in the days of the cave men.



They still didn't know how to read or write though for thousands and thousands of years.

The first writing we have found that was done by people long, long ago was picture writing that looked something like this—



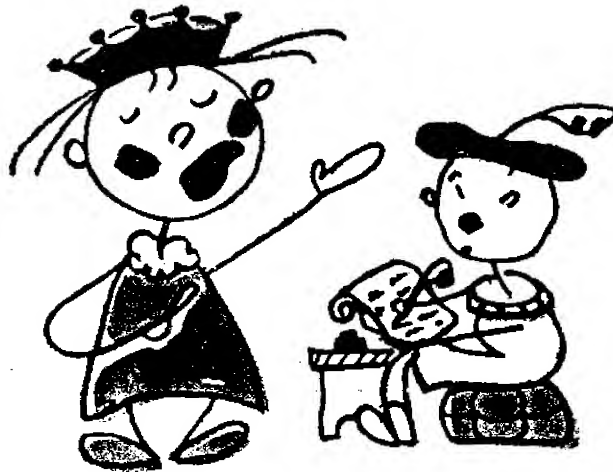
Now if you had read this kind of picture writing you were supposed to know that a man named Zuzu left home. He hunted for six days until he found a bear over near the mountains and he killed it.

Well, you can easily see that anybody could get all mixed up reading picture writing. We might think those six suns up there for six days might be six moons and mean that he took six months to find that bear. What's more, if the writer couldn't draw very well, you might think it was a hairy pig he found and not a bear at all. And worse yet, maybe the person standing on the dead bear was Zuzu's brother instead of Zuzu.

Anyway you can see how you might get all mixed up with writing made up of pictures.

Well, after a while, thank goodness, some people thought up a much simpler and better way to write. And the way that they did it is the way we still do it now.

Instead of drawing pictures of what happened, they drew little pictures of the sounds or noises somebody would make if he were *telling* you what happened.



They decided that they could draw little pictures that stood for the different sounds people made when they talked. Then we could look at those pictures and we would know just what they had said.

We call those little pictures of different sounds

## LETTERS

like A and B and C and D  
or T and Y and I and G and O and L.

When we put some of them together  
in little bunches, we call those bunches

## WORDS

like the word CAT or DOG or BOY  
or GIRL.

Now you might easily think that it would take an awful lot of letter pictures to write all the different words that people say

**BUT**

one of the nicest surprises about learning



to read is that there are



different letter pictures



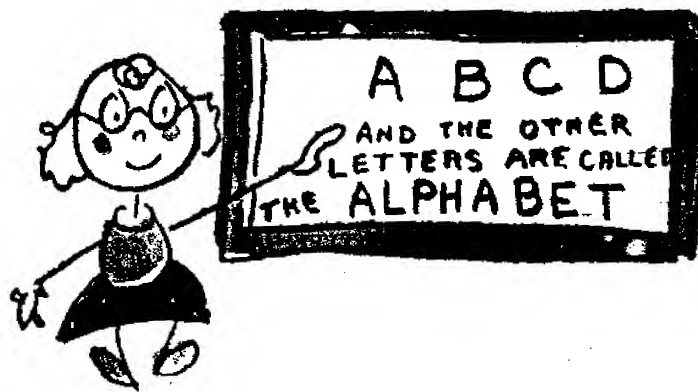
in all the books you will ever read.

Sometimes we print them as BIG letters and sometimes as little letters, but they have the same sounds, big or little, and

here they are—

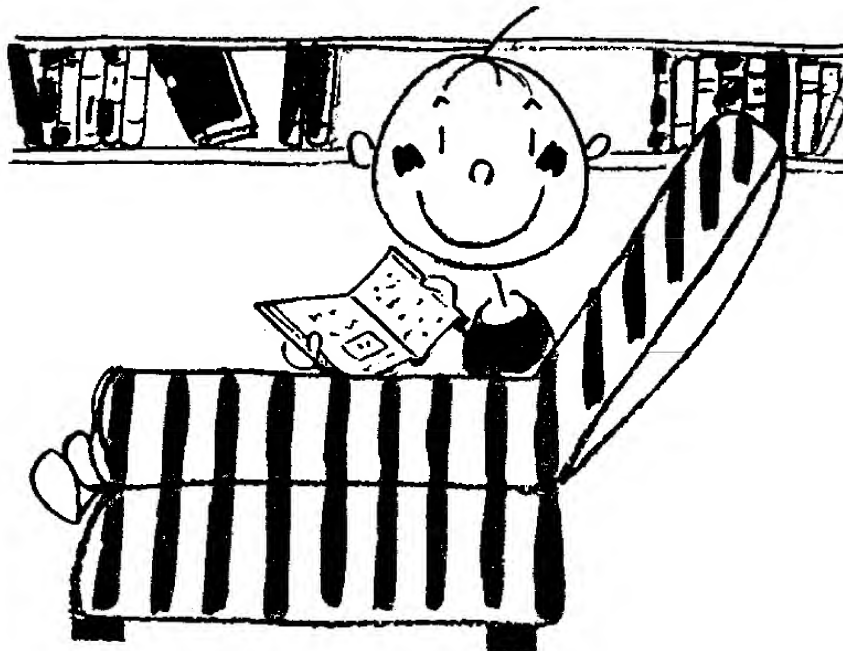
A <sub>or</sub> a	B <sub>or</sub> b	C <sub>or</sub> c	D <sub>or</sub> d
E e	F f	G g	H h
I i	J j	K k	L l
M m	N n	O o	P p
Q q	R r	S s	T t
U u	V v	W w	X x
	Y y	Z z	

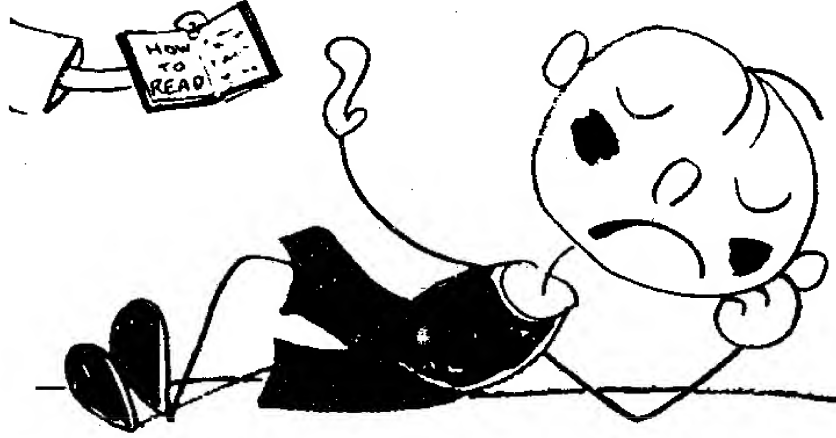
Anyone who ever went to school knows  
that we use only 26 different letters to  
write all our words. **BUT**  
here is something most people don't  
know. We make only 44 different kinds  
of noises or sounds when we say all the  
words we ever use. **SO**  
when you learn which ones of the 44



sounds to make whenever you see words  
made out of bunches of these 26 letter  
pictures, then

**YOU CAN READ.**



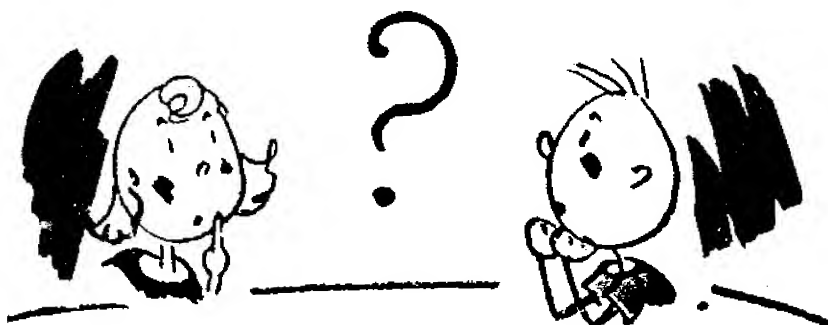


But learning to read isn't something you can do in one day. You have to think and you have to do some work to learn to read. So some lazy people ask "Oh, why should I learn to read?—it's too much bother."

They say, "If I can talk to people and see films and listen to the radio and watch television without knowing how to read, why should I read—what good will it do me anyway?"

Now, people who say, "Why should I read?" may sound silly to you, but let's see just what the answers are to that question—

### WHY SHOULD I READ?





Most of us  
want to grow.



We don't want our BODIES to stay  
baby sized when we get older. You would  
feel very foolish, if when you were



twelve years old you were  
still only about two feet  
high and pushing around  
the floor on a baby  
scooter. So, what  
happens to us?



**WE EAT**

and drink—milk—vegetables—sausages  
—fish—cereals—roast beef—eggs and  
bacon — chocolate — ice cream — cake  
and many other things.

Our bodies—our bones—our teeth grow  
—our muscles get stronger and we get  
bigger all over. We know that we have  
to eat the right things if our bodies are  
going to grow the way we want them to

Well, our minds have to grow too, if we are going to have any fun in life.

We have to learn to think and understand more and more, and do things for ourselves instead of having everything done for us. If our minds didn't grow too, we would go around when we were twelve years old still squawking WHAAA for everything. We wouldn't even know

enough to feed or dress ourselves.



And just as we have to eat good food



to have our bodies grow well—  
so we have to get

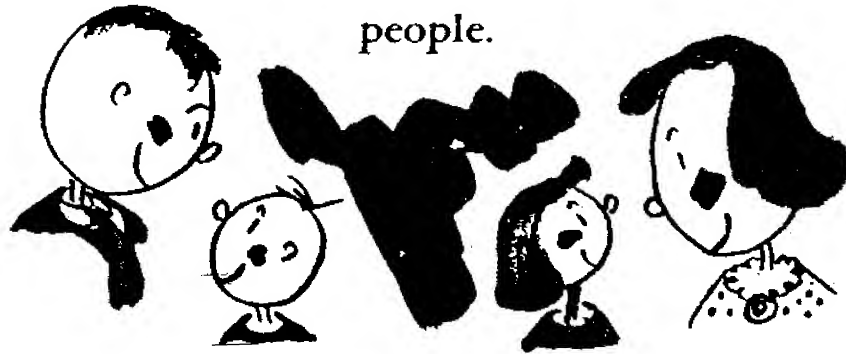
### GOOD IDEAS

to have our minds grow well.  
Did you ever think about this?

While we are growing up, where do we get the food we need for our growing bodies? And where do we get the ideas we need for our growing minds?

The answer is the same for both questions.

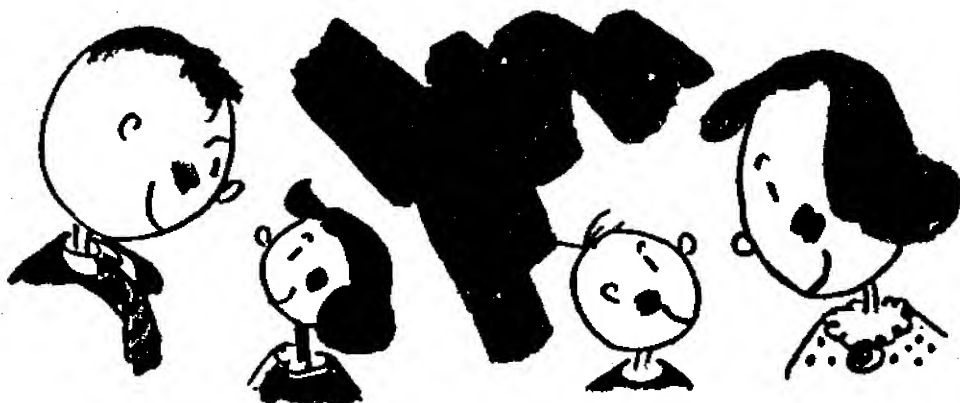
We get both, food and ideas, from other  
people.



And this is what is **IMPORTANT**—  
the kind of person that you are going to  
be depends on what kind of food and  
what kind of ideas you get from those  
other people.

At first, when we are little, we get  
almost all of our food and our ideas from  
our mothers and fathers.

Most of us are lucky, because we have  
mothers and fathers who love us and they  
try hard to see that we get good food  
and good ideas.



By watching them and copying the way they do things and listening to what they tell us, we learn to



walk



dress ourselves

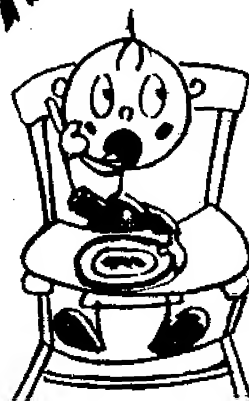


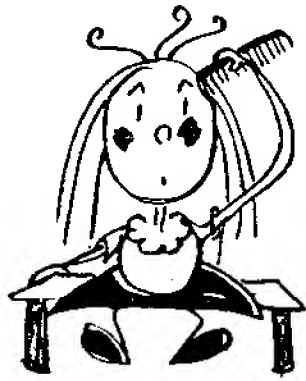
wash ourselves



brush our  
teeth

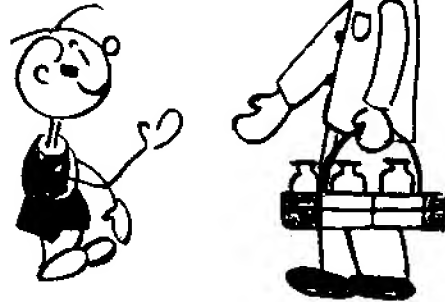
feed  
our-  
selves





comb our hair

talk to  
people



help others



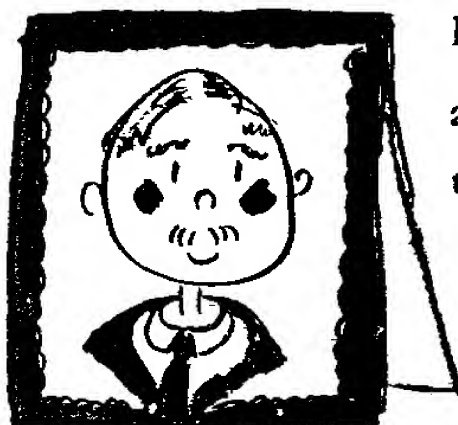
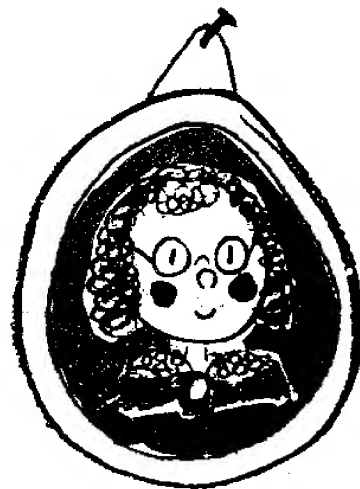
be kind to animals

We get all kinds of good ideas from them that help our minds to grow. After a while we start to meet and know other people. Brothers, sisters and play-mates all begin to give us more ideas.



Sometimes some of the ideas we get from them aren't such good ones—but they make us think, and after a while we can tell the good from the bad ones.

We have older friends too—Grand-mothers and Grand-fathers, Aunts and Uncles, neighbours and friends of our mothers and fathers. From them we learn more and more about



how people think and what they do to get along together and have a good time.

When we go to school we meet new friends and teachers. Hardly a day goes by in which we don't get new ideas.

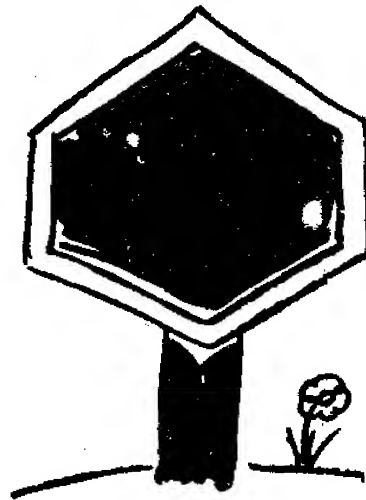
By this time most of us have met a lot of people—people who talk to us and tell us things that we want to know.

## **BUT WHEN WE LEARN TO READ**

all of a sudden we know what thousands of new friends all around us are saying to us. They are new friends that we have never seen.

It's almost like — magic — when we know what those letter pictures and words mean and we can read.

We see a sign at a dangerous street corner and it says—



One of our wise friends we have never seen has told us something we needed to know.

And because we know how to read what he said, he no longer has to be there to tell us with his mouth.



Knowing how to read is almost like having a private telephone all your own. People who write can tell you things that you want to know though they are thousands of miles away from you. Or maybe they have not even been

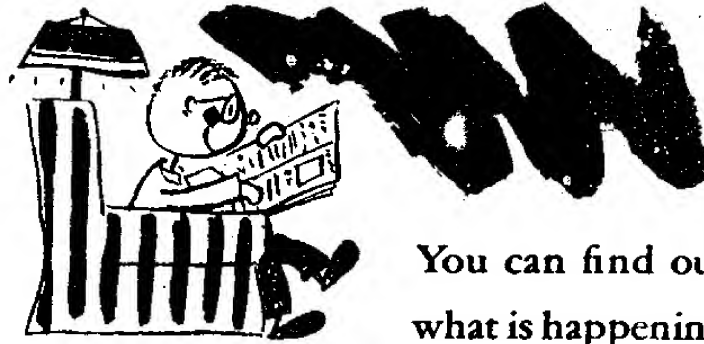
alive for hundreds and hundreds of years. They can still tell you things through the books they wrote.

When you know how to read you can have for your own friends the wisest and the best and greatest people who have ever lived in the world.



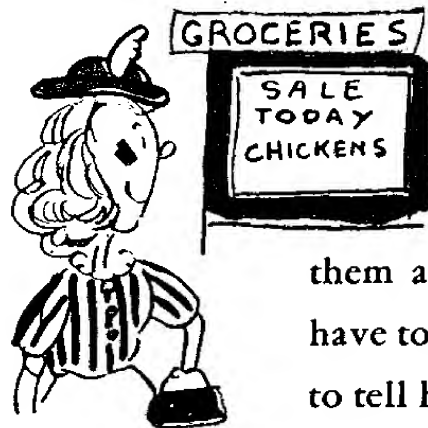


So you can see how reading will help you to get ready to be a grown up.



You can find out what is happening all over the world, the way your father does when he reads the newspaper or a magazine.

Reading will help you with your work the way it helps your mother to take care of your family and your home. Because she can read she knows where to buy things. She can tell what they cost just by



looking at the signs on them and she doesn't have to ask somebody to tell her.

If she wants to cook something extra nice for you she can read how to do it in a cookery book. If she does just what it says to in the book, it is like having one of the best cooks in the world to tell her how.





Boys can read how to make things like model jet planes or cars by following written directions.

They work the same way engineers do when they build bridges or doctors do when they save people's lives. They read to learn.

Girls can read about hundreds of ways to make things and do things that are fun. Reading will help them to get ready to be happy women who do what they like to best.

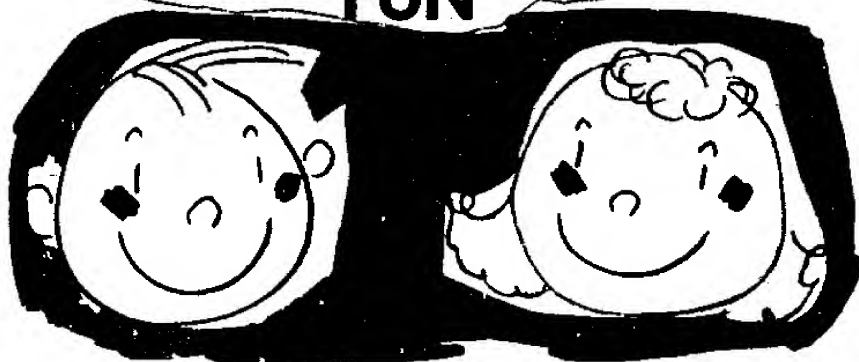


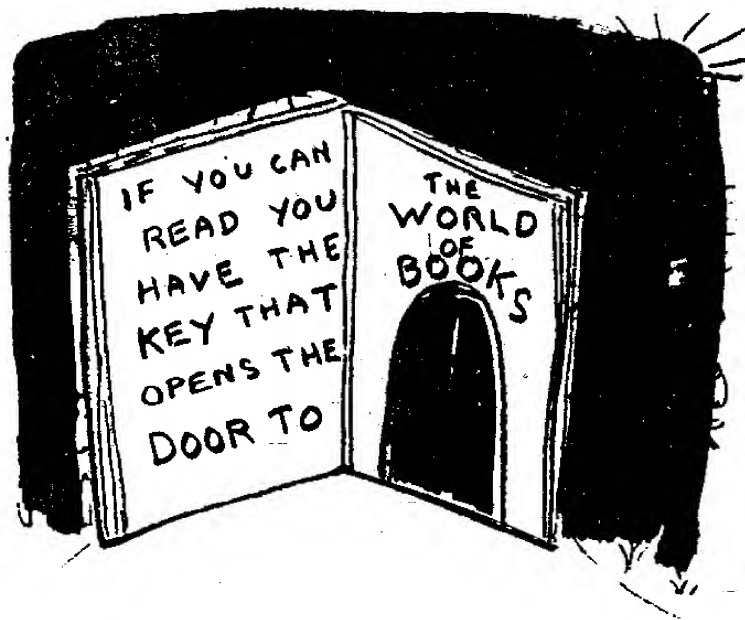
The reading that you do in school and college and in working will be useful to you. It will help to make you the kind of person you want to be when you're grown up

**BUT**

there is still another reason for reading and that is

**READING JUST FOR  
FUN**



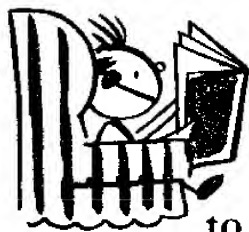


When people first read stories to you, you learn what fun it is to meet the new friends in books. You meet animal friends as well as men and women and boys and girls. What they do and how they feel seems almost as real as what happens to you or the boy next door.

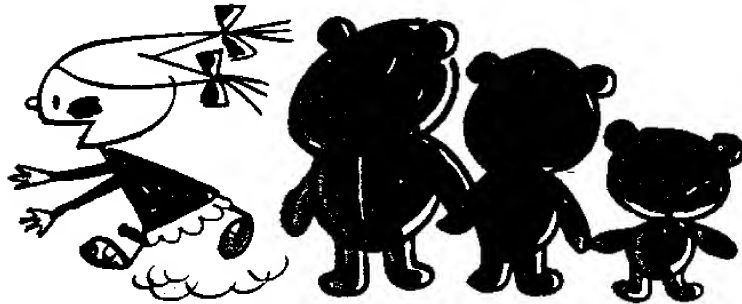
Making believe that you are doing things anywhere at any time with friends in stories is one of the best ways in the world to have fun.

All you need is a good book and a comfortable place to sit quietly, and you





find yourself carried away  
to the world of Goldilocks and  
the Three Bears, or walking through



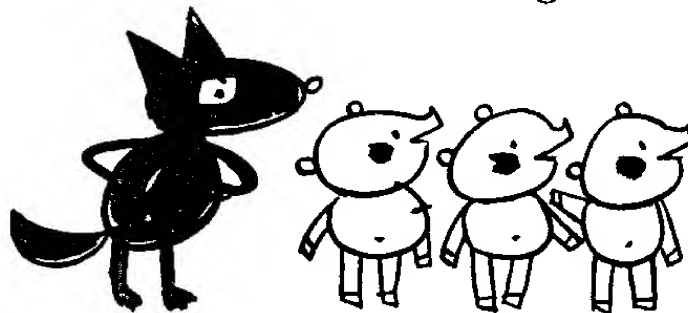
GOLDILOCKS AND THE THREE BEARS

the woods with Little Red Riding  
Hood, or playing with the Three Little  
Pigs. When we haven't quite learned  
to read for ourselves  
yet, we can share



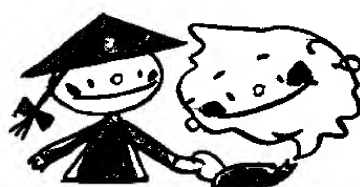
LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD

our story-book friends  
with the people who  
read for us. All our  
lives one of the nicest things about



THE THREE LITTLE PIGS

having friends is having others know  
them. There are so many friends  
waiting in books to meet you that story



ALADDIN

time can hardly ever  
seem long enough.

As we grow older and can read more to ourselves, we find in books new companions of all kinds, and in all times and places. A good book can



ALICE

carry you to a meeting spot in a flash. You and shrink



JIM HAWKINS AND LONG JOHN SILVER

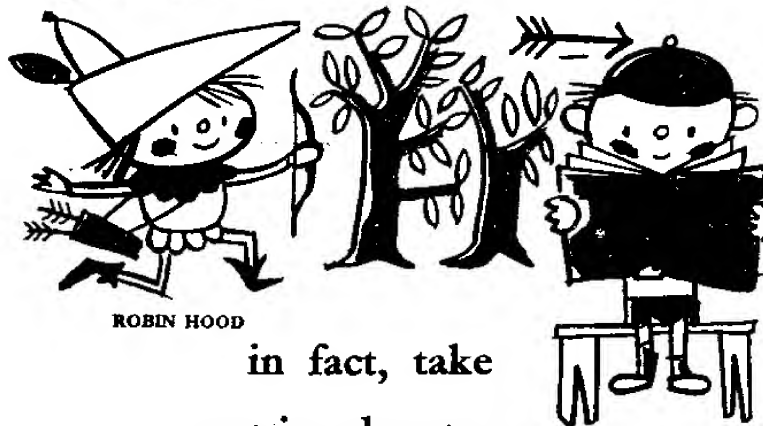
anywhere can grow

with Alice, sail the sea with Long John Silver, roam Sherwood Forest alongside Robin



Hood, or live in a far-away country with Robinson Crusoe.

You can,



ROBIN HOOD

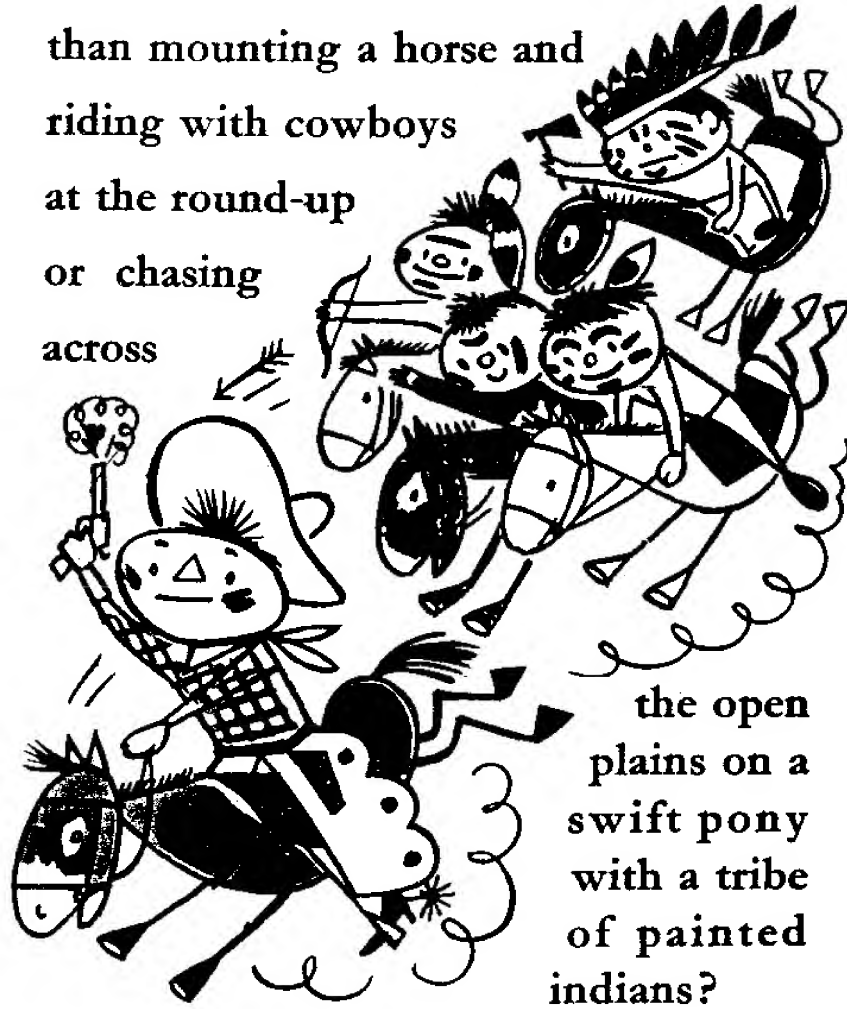
in fact, take part in adventures

with people and animals which will fill your hours with real pleasure and excitement.



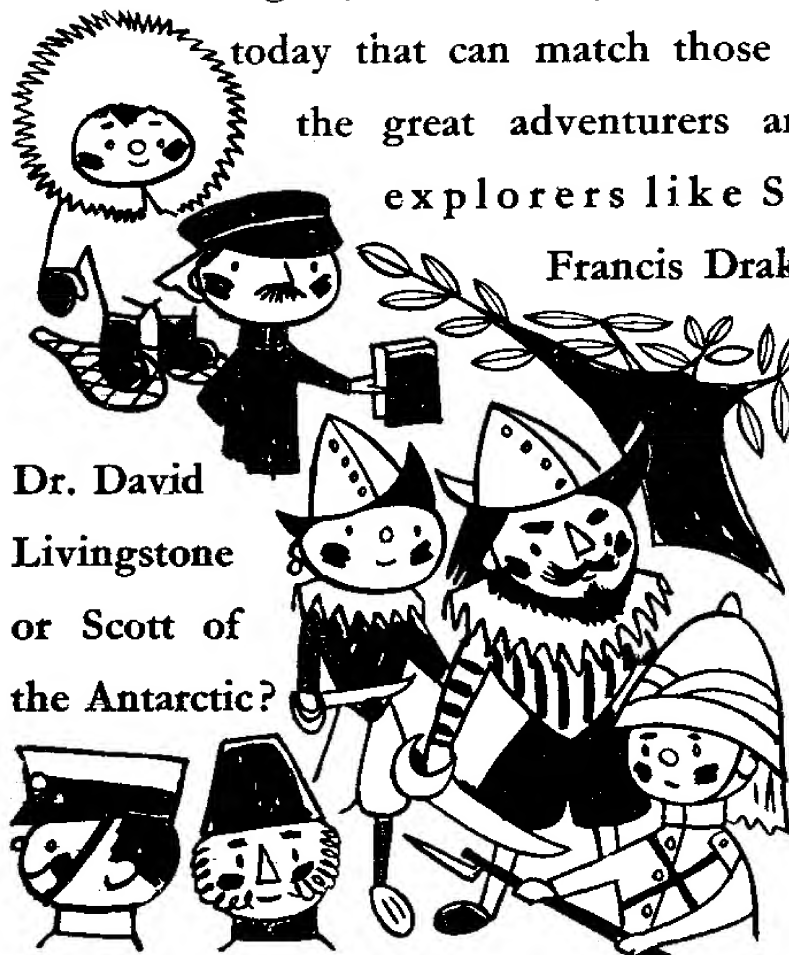
ROBINSON CRUSOE

What could be more exciting  
than mounting a horse and  
riding with cowboys  
at the round-up  
or chasing  
across

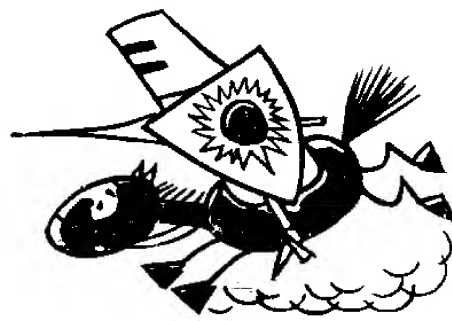
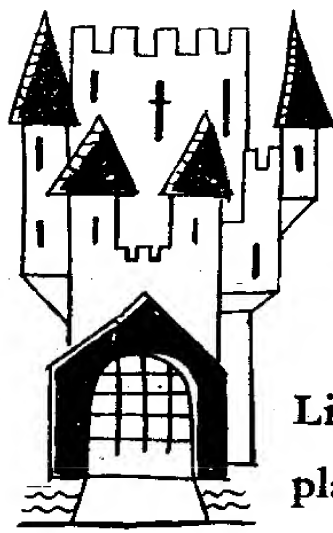


the open  
plains on a  
swift pony  
with a tribe  
of painted  
indians?

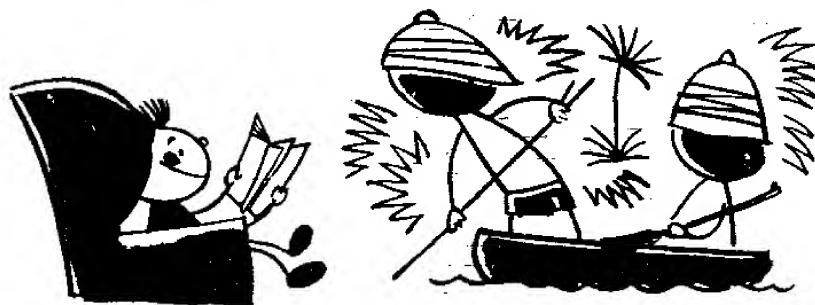
Again, are there any adventures  
today that can match those of  
the great adventurers and  
explorers like Sir  
Francis Drake,



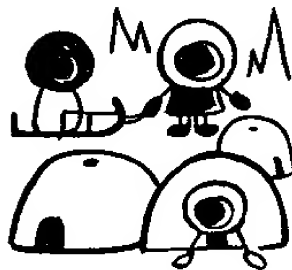
Dr. David  
Livingstone  
or Scott of  
the Antarctic?



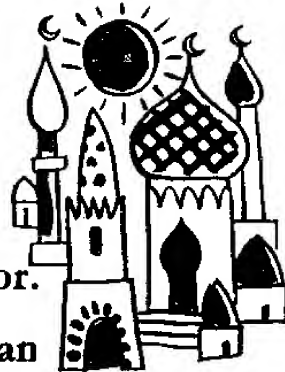
Life in strange and far-away places becomes as real as a trip to the sweetshop on the corner of the street. The people we meet in stories we read often



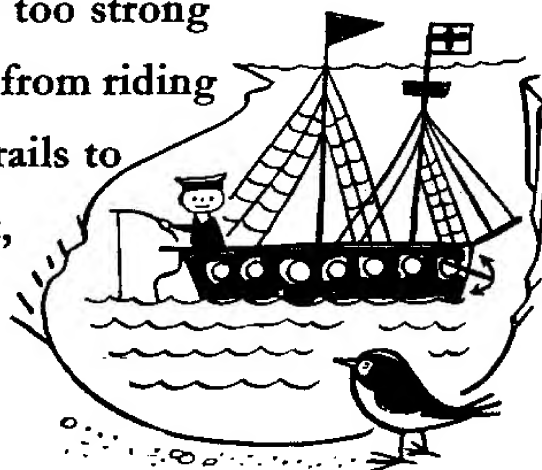
become so near and alive to us that we wish that they lived next door.



No ocean is too wide, no jungle too thick, no ancient



castle wall too strong to keep us from riding our own trails to excitement, adventure and fun.





MOSES



CÆSAR



KING ALFRED



HENRY VIII

Books not only take us to lands to make believe where anything can happen, but they also make friends for us of the great people who have really lived and helped to make our country and the world the kind of place it is.



ST. PAUL



CHARLES I



NEWTON



CROMWELL

The whole wonderful story of the past and the interest-



SHAKESPEARE



CHURCHILL

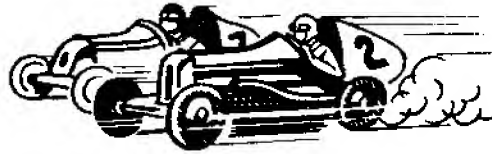


MONTGOMERY





TENNIS



MOTOR RACING



CRICKET



ROCKET

take on new colour and meaning when we learn more about them through the books we read. And if you like to imagine what the future holds with new adventures of science into space and the great days ahead, there are books to lead you in your most exciting guessing.



MICROSCOP



BALLET DANCER



DIVING



PLAYING VIOLIN



STREAMLINED TRAIN



FOOTBALL

These friends in books are friends for life. You will find that you share them with others wherever you go and whatever you do.

And the wonderful part of it all is that without getting out of your chair, you can go everywhere with them, do almost anything you want to with them, and still be home in time for

